Jeffrey D. CARR
                                                    Appl. No. 10/053,904

## *Remarks*

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-22 are pending in the application, with 1, 2, and 16 being the independent claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

### *Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112*

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 19 has been amended to recite a "system" in accordance with the system recited in independent claim 16. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claim 19 is rendered moot, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 20 has been amended to recite a dependency on claim 16. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claim 20 is rendered moot, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 12 has been amended to recite a "multilinear" algorithm. A similar typographical correction is presented in an amendment to the

specification. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claim 12 is rendered moot, and

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.


## *Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being

anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,708,218 to Ellington, Jr. et al. ("Ellington"). For the

reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that Ellington does not anticipate

claims 1-22. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses.


### Claim 1

Independent claim 1 is directed to:

> 1.      A method of processing a packet having a plurality of
>
> layers, comprising:
>
>> processing a first layer in accordance with a first protocol;
>
> and
>
>> processing a second layer in accordance with a second
>
> protocol in parallel with processing of said first layer when
>
> processing of said first layers uncovers sufficient information to
>
> support processing of said second layer.

The Examiner asserts that Ellington teaches "processing a first layer" and

"processing a second layer" in accordance with a first and second protocol in parallel.

(Office Action, p. 3). The Examiner further states that "the determination of a frame as

being IP frame or an IPSec frame via the MAC header and protocol field in the IP header

as examined in the data link control layer clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner."

Applicant submits that Ellington nowhere teaches or suggests "processing a first layer" and "processing a second layer" as recited in claim 1. Ellington is directed strictly to the processing of IP and IPSec frames, which occupy a common layer. For example, in Ellington, it is possible to identify whether a frame is an IPSec frame or a regular IP frame by examining the "data link control layer." (Ellington, col. 3, l. 47).

Furthermore, because Ellington does not teach or suggest a "first layer" and a "second layer", Ellington likewise cannot teach or suggest processing the "second layer" in parallel with the "first layer" when "processing of said first layers uncovers sufficient information to support processing of said second layer." The Examiner refers to the determination, in Ellington, of whether a frame is an IP frame or an IPSec frame to show processing after sufficient information is uncovered.

Ellington does not indicate the use of a dependency whereby processing of a "second layer" is dependent on the uncovering of sufficient information during the processing of a "first layer." The Examiner appears to suggest that this dependency occurs in the step of examining the IP header at the data link control layer to identify IP and IPSec traffic. (Ellington, col. 3, ll. 44-47). However, Ellington nowhere teaches or suggests that the processing of a subsequent IP or IPSec frame is dependent on the processing of a previous IP or IPSec frame. Accordingly, Ellington cannot be said to teach or suggest "processing of said first layers [to] uncover sufficient information to support processing of said second layer". For each of the aforementioned reasons, Ellington cannot be said to anticipate independent claim 1.

## Claims 2-15, 21, and 22

Independent claim 2 is directed to:

> 2. A method of processing a data packet according to a plurality of security policies, comprising the steps of:
>
> (a) receiving the packet;
>
> (b) identifying a first security policy;
>
> (c) processing the packet according to the first security policy;
>
> (d) identifying a second security policy when information necessary for said identification of the second security policy becomes available; and
>
> (e) processing the packet according to the second security policy, concurrently with step (c).

The Examiner asserts that Ellington teaches processing the packet according to a first and second security policy. Specifically, the Examiner states that "IPSec inherently uses Security association management (SA) and key exchange", suggesting that the architecture of IPSec accounts for first and second security policies. (Office Action, p. 4-5)

Applicant submits that Ellington nowhere teaches or suggests processing a packet according to a first security policy, then processing the same packet according to a second security policy. Ellington discusses IPSec security policies in column 6, lines 19-48 in referring to a determination of which packets should be processed by IPSec. The

security policies in Ellington are applied to a stream of packets through the use of filters

for testing individual packets. (Ellington, col. 4, ll. 30-33). The security policies are

nowhere applied to a same packet more than once. For each of the aforementioned

reasons, Ellington cannot be said to anticipate independent claim 2.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 3-15, 21, and 22 are not anticipated by

Ellington for at least the same reasons as independent claim 2 from which they depend,

and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, the Examiner's

rejection of claims 3-15, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is traversed and Applicant

respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.


### Claims 16-20

Independent claim 16 is directed to:

>  16.    A system for processing a data packet according to a
>
> plurality of security policies, wherein processes that effect
>
> respective security policies can execute in parallel, the system
>
> comprising:
>
>         a packet identification (PID) parser that identifies the
>
> packet;
>
>         a plurality of security processing modules, each of which
>
> can process the packet according to one of the security policies in
>
> parallel with at least one other security processing module; and

at least one feedback loop or feeding output of at least one

of said security processing modules to at least one other security

processing module.

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 16 for the same reasons as

provided in the rejection of independent claim 2. Accordingly, claim 16 is not

anticipated by Ellington for similar reasons as stated above with regards to independent

claim 2. Furthermore, Applicant submits that Ellington nowhere teaches or suggests a

"packet identification parser" or a "feedback loop", and the Examiner does not refer to

any analogous structure in Ellington. For each of the aforementioned reasons, Ellington

cannot be said to anticipate independent claim 16.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 17-20 are not anticipated by Ellington

for at least the same reasons as independent claim 16 from which they depend, and

further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of

claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is traversed and Applicant respectfully requests
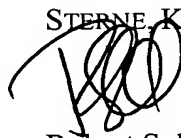
that the rejection be withdrawn.

## *Conclusion*

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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